



SOIL AND WATER Resources

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Elizabeth (Liz) Baker Brown Remembered

Elizabeth (Liz) Baker Brown was born in Sikeston, Mo. in 1926. She passed away Dec. 28 at her home near Fayette. Liz was well known by all for her work with the Soil and Water Conservation Program. She was married to William Bastin (Bill) Brown in 1948, who preceded her in death in 1987. After Bill's death, Liz took over the management of the Brown family farm, which has been in the Brown family for more than 100 years. She quickly became actively involved in agricultural issues.

In 1987, she was elected to be the first woman to serve on the Howard County Soil and Water Conservation District and was a board member there until 2012, serving more than 20 years. In 1994, she was appointed by Gov. Mel Carnahan to serve on the statewide board of the State Soil and Water Districts Commission. She became the chairperson the following year and served in that capacity through 2007. Liz spoke throughout the state advocating for soil and water conservation practices.

As part of Liz's interests in agricultural issues, she was very active in Women in Ag. She also served as a member of the Missouri Dept. of Agriculture Advisory Board. In 1996, Liz received the Woman of the Year in Agriculture for the state of Missouri by *The Missouri Ruralist*. In 2005, Liz received a lifetime achievement award from the University of Missouri School of Agriculture.

Liz will long be remembered as a champion for soil and water conservation in Missouri and leaves a legacy for all to emulate. Liz will be greatly missed by all.

Jeff Lance Appointed As New Soil and Water Districts Commissioner

Gov. Jay Nixon has appointed Jeffrey D. Lance, of Savannah, to the Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission. Lance raises cattle and grows corn and soybeans on his farm in Andrew County.

He and his wife also own and operate Lance Construction Co., a family-owned business that has been doing soil conservation work since 1962. He has been a board member of the Andrew County Soil and Water District Board of Supervisors since 2012, and has been active on the Andrew County Farm Bureau board since 1987. Lance served as a past president and chairman of the Missouri Land Improvement Contractors Association (LICA) and chair of the LICA Governmental Relations Committee. Lance has been involved with two of the Plan for the Future subcommittees. The governor has appointed Lance to fill the vacancy north of the Missouri River for a term ending Aug. 15, 2016.



Elizabeth (Liz) Baker Brown

Photo by Megan Felten
Howard County SWCD



Jeffrey D. Lance

Photo by Paula Richter
Andrew County SWCD



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Kathryn Braden Honored for Service to Missouri

Kathryn Braden was honored by the Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Soil and Water Conservation Program for outstanding service and leadership to the citizens of the great State of Missouri while serving on the Soil and Water Districts Commission.

Braden was a commissioner from May 2, 2005 through Jan. 2, 2013. "Kathryn's work to extend Missouri's soil and water conservation efforts has been an inspiration to many people across the state," said Soil and Water Conservation Program Director Colleen Meredith. "This award is just a small token to recognize the big accomplishments Kathryn made to reduce erosion and improve water quality during her tenure on the commission."

The award was presented to Braden in December during the 2014 Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual meeting held in Osage Beach.



Kathryn Braden (right front) is congratulated by Soil and Water Districts Commission vice-chair Ralph Gaw (left front) and Soil and Water Conservation Program Director Colleen Meredith (back). Braden received a plaque recognizing her outstanding service and leadership on the commission from 2005 through 2013.

Photo by Heather Keith - Grundy County SWCD

Some Highlights - What Was New in 2014

Many exciting things happened during the past year and here are a few of the highlights related to soil and water conservation efforts in Missouri.

Jan. 1 - Thirty years have come and gone since a one-tenth-of-one percent Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax was passed by Missouri voters in 1984 to fund state parks and soil and water conservation efforts. The majority of the soil and water portion of funding has been used to assist agricultural landowners through voluntary programs that are developed by the Soil and Water Districts Commission. These programs are administered locally through district boards in each of Missouri's 114 counties.

March 21 - The Soil and Water Districts commission concurred with providing each district a \$3,500 maximum stipend to hire a college student intern for a new internship program available to each soil and water conservation district during summer 2014.

May 1 - The 2014 State Envirothon was held in Mexico, Missouri.

June 10 - The Soil and Water Districts Commission approved modifications to and expansion of the current Cover Crop Pilot.

June 10 - The Soil and Water Districts Commission initiated an open comment period for providing cost-share for water meters and service lines for livestock watering when landowners are connecting to a public water supply system and providing additional out-of-production incentive to extend the original maintenance life of stream buffer practices.

July 14 - Area meeting are held across the state. Districts, commissioners, program staff and conservation partners meet to discuss emerging issues.

Aug. 8 - The Soil and Water Districts Commission meets at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia and honor Richard Fordyce, Missouri Department of Agriculture Director, for his service on the Soil and Water Districts Commission.

Oct. 1 - The Soil and Water Districts Commission, Clean Water Commission, Safe Drinking Water Commission and Well Installation Board held a joint meeting in Jefferson City.

Oct. 1 - The Soil and Water Districts Commission concurred with a new supplemental allocation process. The supplemental allocation process provides funds for districts that had 90 percent of funds obligated in the following resource concerns: Grading Management, Irrigation Management, Sensitive Areas, Sheet/Rill and Gully Erosion and Woodland Erosion to ensure funding availability for continued conservation.

Nov. 12 - The Governor's Conference on Natural Resources is held in Springfield. Soil and Water Districts Commission chair Gary Vandiver sits on the Costs and Benefits of Natural Resources Protection panel.

Dec. 10 - The Soil and Water Districts Commission meets in Osage Beach and hear from district boards and staff regarding four pilot projects exploring sharing staff skills between districts.

Dec. 15 - The Soil and Water Districts Commission approved \$500,000 to assist with reconstruction of soil and water conservation practices currently under a maintenance agreement, or for new practices required to control erosion as a result of the storm damage from severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding in 20 Missouri counties designated in FEMA disaster declaration 4200-DR.

Dec. 18 - The Soil and Water Districts Commission approves the continuation of Supplemental Cost-Share Allocations for the current fiscal year. The approval allows a \$300,000 total supplemental allocation maximum.

Dec. 23 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources publishes *Missouri's Nutrient Reduction Strategy 2014* document. The strategy details how Missouri citizens can work together to ensure all Missouri waters have acceptable levels of nutrients that maintain water quality for designated uses. The document is available online at dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/mnrscl/nlrs-strategy-2014.pdf.

District II Technician Certification Set for February and May

The next round of District Technician II testing will be held Feb. 4, 2015 and May 6, 2015 at Lincoln University, Carver Farm in Jefferson City. The testing is available to any district employee the board wishes to have certified as a Technician II. If a district employee successfully passes the four tests required for Technician II, the employee will receive the baseline conservation practice certification and be able to sign off on the designated practices. For more information visit swcd.mo.gov/internal/tech2testing.htm.

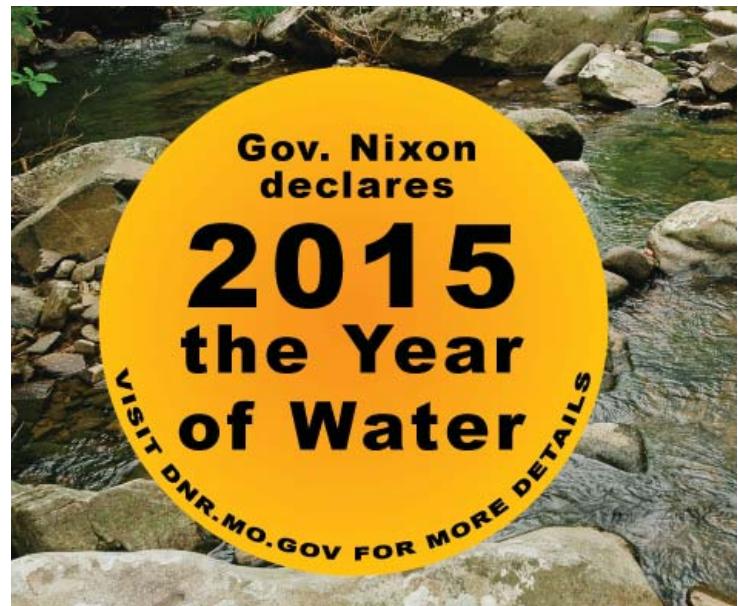
Intern Program Approved for Summer 2015

At its Dec. 18, 2014 meeting, the Soil and Water Districts Commission concurred to again provide each district a \$3,500 maximum stipend to hire a college student intern(s) from May 1, 2015 to Sept. 1, 2015.

The internship can be a benefit to all parties involved. Students will gain work experience in a hands-on learning environment that will promote personal and professional growth while mentoring with SWCD boards, staff and conservation partners. An intern can help fill gaps in the district workload and strengthen public relations with younger generations.

This intern program was developed from a recommendation from the Plan for the Future Program Delivery and Operations Subcommittee. The intern program was available to all districts during summer 2014, with 43 districts choosing to hire an intern.

More information about the intern program is available online at <http://swcd.mo.gov/internal/memos-fy15.htm>.



Missouri State Fair Youth in Agriculture Scholarship Application Now Available

The Missouri State Fair Foundation Youth in Agriculture scholarship application for current Missouri high school seniors is now available online from the Missouri State Fair and Missouri State Fair Foundation. Applications should be submitted to the Missouri State Fair and must be postmarked by Feb. 2, 2015.

For the first time, one \$5,000 platinum scholarship will be offered by Youth and Agriculture supporters. Additional scholarships being offered include one \$2,500 supreme scholarship sponsored by Sydenstrickers John Deere of Missouri/Sydenstrickers Angus Genetics, and thirty \$1,500 scholarships sponsored by the Missouri State Fair Foundation and Youth in Agriculture supporters.

Applicants must be high school seniors and active members of 4-H or FFA. Eligible scholarship applicants must plan to enroll in an accredited Missouri college or university and pursue a degree in agriculture. Applicants must have participated as a 4-H or FFA exhibitor at the Missouri State Fair at least once; however, applicants cannot have sold livestock in a past Missouri State Fair Sale of Champions auction.

For more information, call the Missouri State Fair at 800-422-FAIR (3247) or email questions to mostatefair@mda.mo.gov.



Poultry at the Missouri State Fair. Photo by Van Beydler



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